

**From:** [Meyer, John](#)  
**To:** [Hunt, Laura](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] FW: COE workplan - follow up email - quick review input  
**Date:** Monday, July 18, 2022 4:36:20 PM

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**From:** Price, Lisa <Price.Lisa@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 31, 2022 3:49 PM  
**To:** O'Sullivan, Ian P MAJ USARMY CESWG (USA) <ian.p.osullivan@usace.army.mil>  
**Cc:** Meyer, John <Meyer.John@epa.gov>; Price, Lisa <Price.Lisa@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] FW: COE workplan - follow up email - quick review input

Major O'Sullivan,

EPA has conducted an initial review of the USACE draft sampling plan entitled, "Conceptual Draft Sampling Plan for the Matagorda Ship Channel Improvement Project," and finds that the plan would not adequately characterize sediment in the proposed project area. The following are our initial comments:

- The draft plan does not include enough sampling stations to adequately characterize the turning basin or proposed widened areas
- We recommend that USACE evaluate/incorporate Alcoa's recent bathymetric data and determine what is applicable for this draft sampling plan
- The draft plan should describe how the sampling would fit into the overall design/phase timeline of the entire project
- The draft plan should define the Data Quality Objectives (DQOs) for characterizing sediment in the project area. The draft relies on historical data for decision making but does not include the uncertainties of using these datasets. Historical data was collected under different DQOs and may not meet all the objectives of the USACE's project. A statistical approach should be considered to determine the appropriate number of samples needed to define the sample population and ensure sediments concentrations are below the action level. Tools such as Visual Sampling Plan (<https://www.pnnl.gov/available-technologies/visual-sample-plan-vsp-60>) could inform this effort.

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USEPA Region 6  
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**From:** O'Sullivan, Ian P MAJ USARMY CESWG (USA) <[ian.p.osullivan@usace.army.mil](mailto:ian.p.osullivan@usace.army.mil)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 25, 2022 5:49 PM  
**To:** Price, Lisa <[Price.Lisa@epa.gov](mailto:Price.Lisa@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Meyer, John <[Meyer.John@epa.gov](mailto:Meyer.John@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] FW: COE workplan - follow up email

Ma'am,